



# **SOUTH RIVER FOREST:** Greenspace at the Crossroads

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## SOUTH RIVER FOREST:

# What/Where is the South River Forest?

South Atlanta's most valuable natural resource, the South River, flows eastwardly across Atlanta and through the SRF on its way to Jackson Lake and the Ocmulgee River. The SRF is a crucial part of the river's urban watershed, the health of which impacts nature and communities on a regional scale.

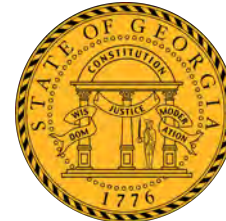
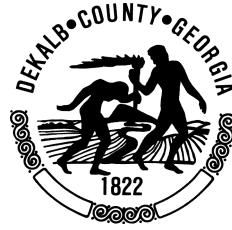
[Atlanta Dept. of City Planning, The Nature Conservancy](#) and others have presented the SRF concept – an emerald necklace of connected greenspaces that will celebrate and protect the South River watershed and bring connectivity to SE metro Atlanta.



# SOUTH RIVER FOREST:

## Stakeholders, Potential Partners, Decision Makers

*Neighborhood and community groups, local businesses and many more.*



The Nature Conservancy



GEORGIA AUDUBON



Atlanta BeltLine®



## SRF Tour:

### Property Owners & Status

[Click location for google map link](#)

#### [#1 Skyhaven Quarry](#)

Privately owned, developer pushing 155 townhome plan.

#### [#2 Skyhaven](#)

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#### [#3 Moreland Bridge Park](#)

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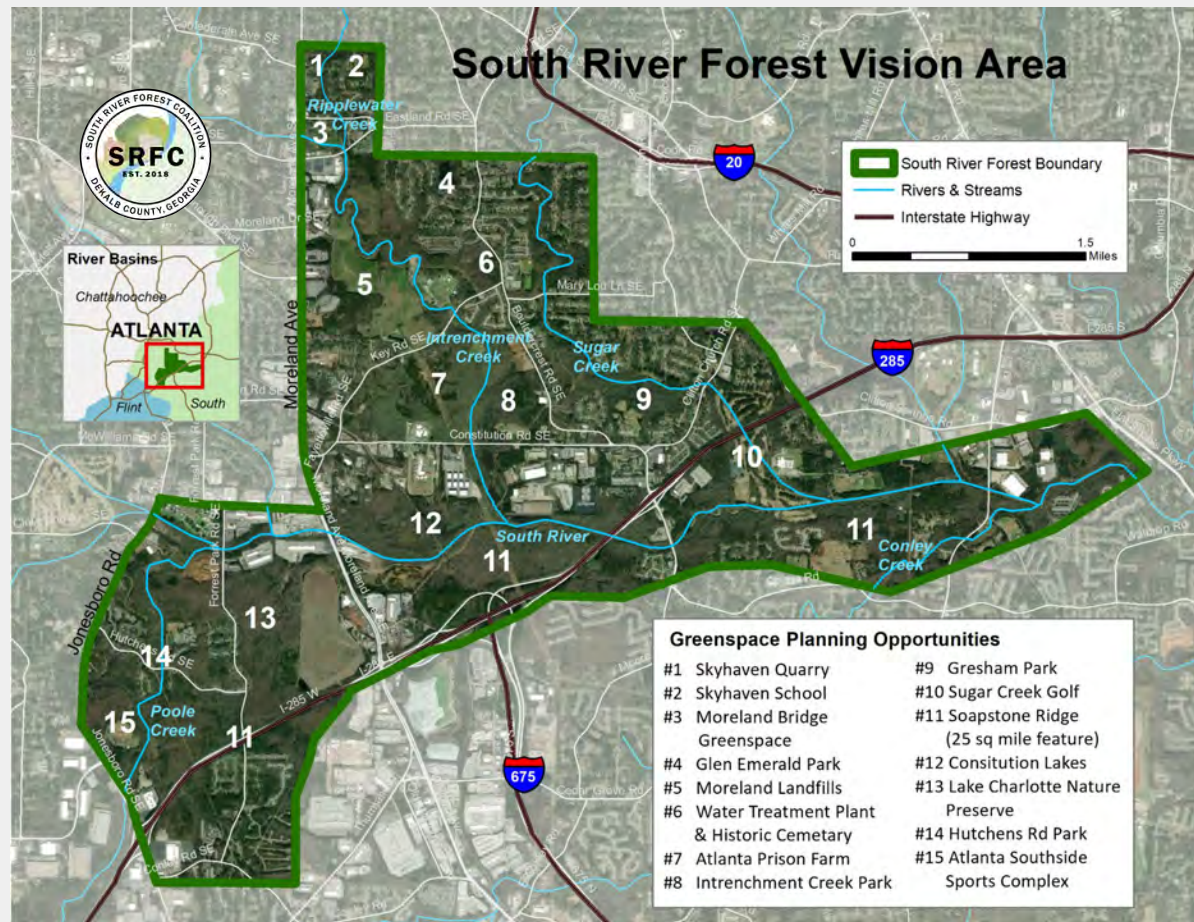
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COA Public Park, Fulton County

## SOUTH RIVER FOREST:

# #1 SKYHAVEN QUARRY

[Google Map Link Here](#)

- Owned by developer. Plans submitted by owner to EACA LUZ Committee 12.2020 would rezone for 156 units inc. vehicular bridge over threatened creek.
- Western boundary on Moreland
- 10 Acres; wooded, granite quarry
- Ripplewater/Intrenchment Creek
- Wildlife habitat and corridor
- Adjacent to Skyhaven (#2)
- Potential “greenway corridor” (following the creek south) could connect to Moreland Bridge Park (#3); Proposed in [ARC's 2008 LCI: South Moreland Avenue Study](#) (page 4:15)



## SOUTH RIVER FOREST:

### #2 SKYHAVEN

[Google map link here](#)

- Former elementary school; Property of DeKalb Public Schools
- 14 acres, cleared & wooded; Prime for mixed-use greenspace, community center, pool, affordable housing (cluster design), dog park, etc.
- Headwater stream flows through; metal footbridge connects dead end streets
- Adjacent to Skyhaven Quarry (#1)
- Amphibian & wildlife habitat/corridor
- Highest residential density of all sites
- Neighbors use it as a park but it is unprotected
- Skyhaven is beloved; there is a community effort to protect the property called “Saving Sky Haven”



## SOUTH RIVER FOREST:

### #3 Moreland Bridge Park

[Google map link here](#)

- Proposed in ARC's 2008 LCI: South Moreland Avenue Study (image below, pg 4:15)
- PATH's South River Trail could pass under Moreland along Entrenchment Creek and connect to the Beltline
- ~5 Acres; Wetland/floodplain restoration needed (educational opportunity)

to Beltline



## SOUTH RIVER FOREST:

### #4 Glen Emerald Lake & Rock Garden

[Google map link here](#)

- DeKalb County Park
- 28 acres
- Lake feeds Intrenchment Creek
- Soft trails around lake;  
playgrounds and other amenities

#### Rock Garden

- Uncovered 2012
- 1.6 acres
- Adjacent to restored  
apartment complex





## SOUTH RIVER FOREST:

### #4 Glen Emerald Lake & Rock Garden



## SOUTH RIVER FOREST:

### #5 South Moreland Landfills

[Google map link here](#)

- Privately owned
- 34, 51 & 72 Acres, and more
- All closed and capped
- No access
- Frontage on Intrenchment Creek
- Likely PATH route
- Adjacent to WWTP & APF



**SOUTH RIVER FOREST:**

**#5 South Moreland Landfills**

**View northwest of Atlanta**



## SOUTH RIVER FOREST:

### #6 Water Treatment Plant Woods & Cemetery

[Google map link here](#)

- City of Atlanta Property
- Approximately 40 acres
- Frontage on Intrenchment Creek
- Hilltop-to-Creek
- Isolated Cemetery: ca. 1850-present
- Across the street from McNair High School (Bouldercrest Rd.)
- Adjacent to Old Prison Farm
- Likely PATH Route



## SOUTH RIVER FOREST:

### #7 Old Prison Farm, “Honor Farm”

[Google map link here](#)

- Structures from WWI era through 1950's
- Dairy foundation ruins
- Warden's House, Worker Homes
- 3 ponds
- Carnegie stones
- 4 miles of trails
- Intrenchment Creek frontage
- Significant wildlife habitat



## SOUTH RIVER FOREST:

### #8 Intrenchment Creek Park

[Google map link here](#)

- Under immediate threat. Learn more at [StopTheSwap.org](http://StopTheSwap.org)
- DeKalb County public greenspace
- 120 Acres
- Upland, floodplain, urban forest
- Critical greenspace frontage & buffer for Intrenchment Creek
- Land swap of 40 acres of ICP to private developer approved by DK Board of Commissioners, 10/2020
- PATH South River Trail & Trailhead; trail connects to Gresham Park and continues east to GSU Perimeter Campus. PATH Foundation plans to connect as far east as The Monastery of the Holy Spirit, Conyers



## SOUTH RIVER FOREST:

# #8 Intrenchment Creek Park

IMMEDIATE THREAT: DeKalb County land swap of ICP to Blackhall Studios

### *INTRENCHMENT CREEK PARK:*

*Urban forest, important wildlife habitat & the Atlanta RC Airclub airfield.*



### *BLACKHALL STUDIO'S PROPERTY:*

*DeKalb will receive clear-cut wasteland, floodplain, and fragmented land along Bouldercrest Rd. in exchange for ICP.*



## SOUTH RIVER FOREST: #9 Gresham Park

[Google map link here](#)

- Full size gymnasium
- Public pool
- Basketball Courts
- Baseball fields
- Nature Trail
- 100+ acres of forest





## SOUTH RIVER FOREST:

### #10 Sugar Creek Golf Course

[Google map link here](#)

- 18 Hole public golf course
- 10 Hard tennis courts
- 4 Clay tennis courts
- Driving range
- Leagues & lessons
- Where Sugar Creek meets the South River



## SOUTH RIVER FOREST: #11 Soapstone Ridge

[Google map link here](#)

- Broad geologic area
- Mostly privately owned
- Archeological site, Muskogee-Creek
- 19th century farm ruins
- Wetlands
- South River Corridor
- Extensive illegal clearcutting along the South River by Crown Enterprises, 2019



## SOUTH RIVER FOREST:

### #12 Constitution Lakes

[Google map link here](#)

- DeKalb County public greenspace
- 200 Acres
- Wetland, ponds, boardwalk, soft trails
- Doll's Head Trail
- Significant bird & wildlife habitat



image credit: Ken Boff

## SOUTH RIVER FOREST: #13 Lake Charlotte

[Google map link here](#)

- City of Atlanta purchased in 2020
- To be restored for public use and passive greenspace
- 216 Acres



## SOUTH RIVER FOREST: #14 Hutchens Road Park

[Google map link here](#)

This one-acre property is small, but very much desired by the community! It was recently purchased by The Conservation Fund on behalf of the City of Atlanta Parks Department and at the request of residents and the South River Gardens Community Association. Park Pride has awarded the community a “park visioning grant” to help residents develop plans for this new greenspace.



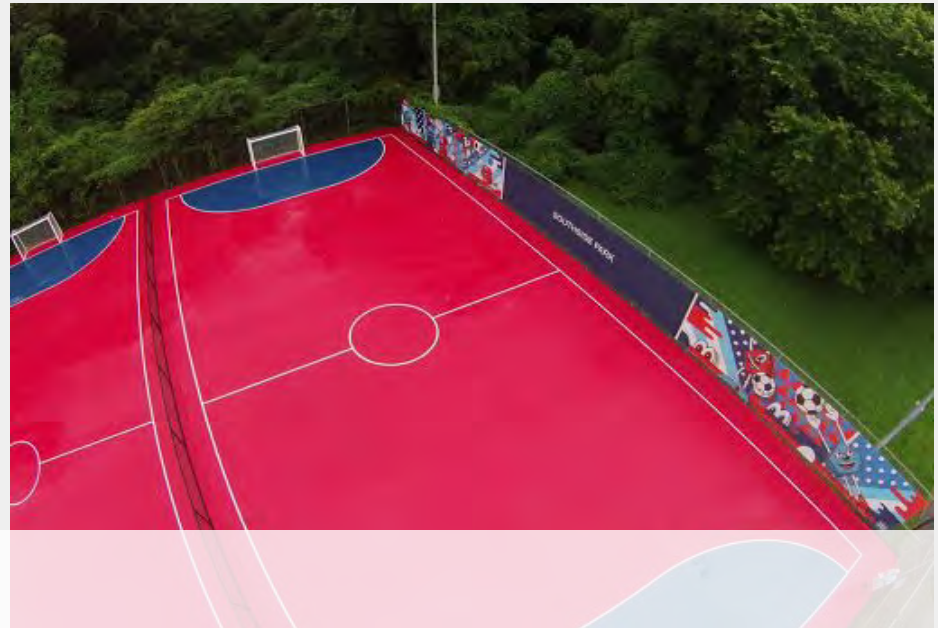
Intersection of Hutchens Road and King Smith Road in the South River Gardens neighborhood.

## SOUTH RIVER FOREST:

# #15 Atlanta Southside Sports Complex

[Google map link here](#)

- Seven miles of urban mountain biking trails
- Baseball fields
- Soccer pitches
- Old growth forest
- More than 50 species of trees!



**[Take a virtual mountain biking ride - click here!!](#)**

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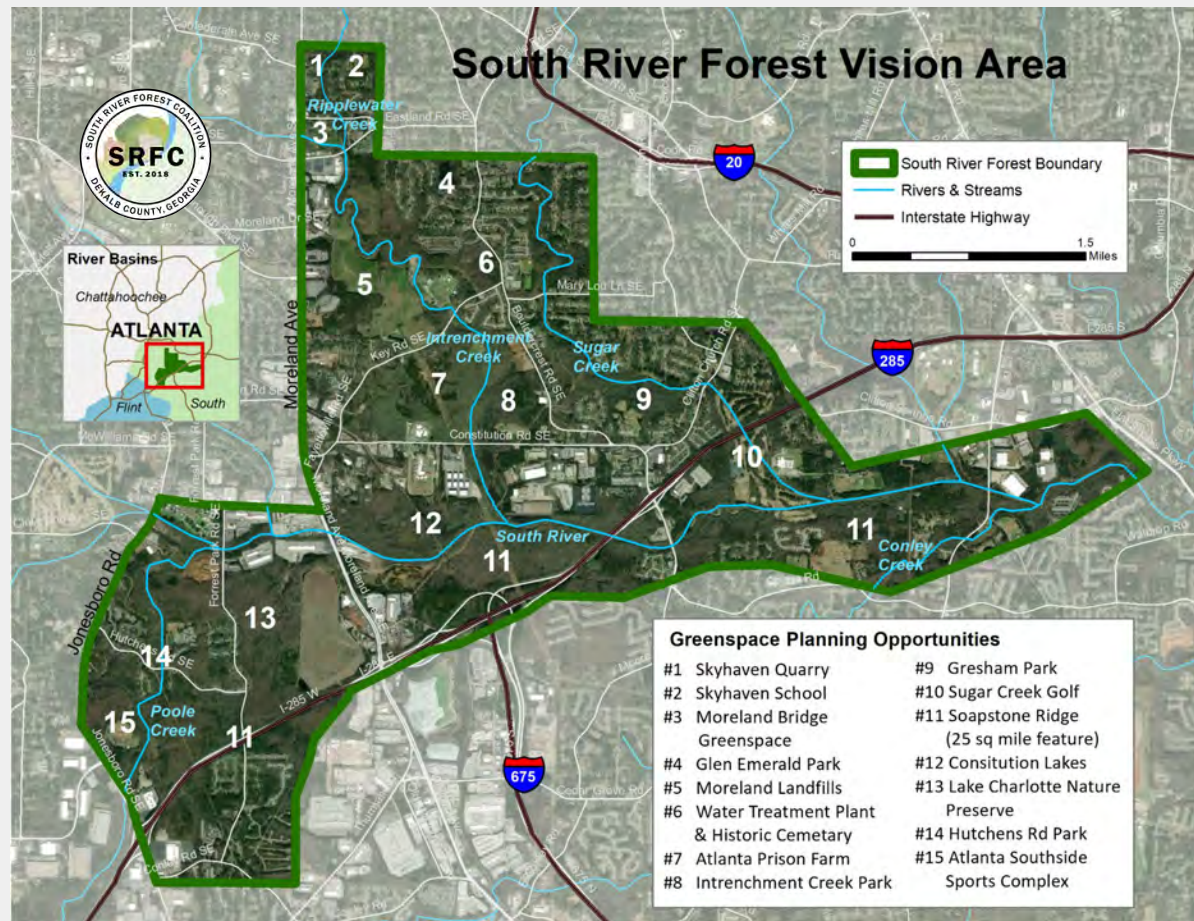
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